



# Maricopa County

## News Release

### Environmental Services Department

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### ***In or Out?***

### **Maricopa County Environmental Services announces New Search Tool for Food Inspection Reports**

The Maricopa County Environmental Services department has revamped the Restaurant Inspection search tool on their Web site and is happy to unveil an updated, searchable database of current food inspection reports. This new database reflects changes made to inspection reports as a result of the 2009 FDA Food Code.

The department has been transitioning to an entirely new data, monitoring, and reporting system, reason why only weekly compilations of inspections conducted the prior week were being provided online. County residents can now once again visit the department's Web site and, by entering different search criteria, retrieve their favorite eatery's most recent inspection report. The online report shows if the establishment was In Compliance or Out of Compliance with the different food code regulations, what actions – if any – were taken, and if an award was granted at the time of the inspection.

“While County residents have always had access to our food inspection reports through a variety of means, the renewed Web site features provide the interactive restaurant searching abilities that the public has been accustomed to and have found so helpful for years,” says John Kolman, director with the Maricopa County Environmental Services department. “Though we are not required to do so, we are pleased to be able to once again offer such a popular and convenient way for the public to look up inspection results.”

For those interested, a public records request can still be submitted in person at the department's main office or conveniently done online.

When adhering to the new requirements established by the 2009 Food Code, the department found it to be an opportunity to revamp its voluntary Food Inspection Award System. In the meantime, based on the previous model, a temporary award system has been instituted. The temporary award model is to keep rewarding establishments and providing the public a highlight of how food establishments are performing on their current inspections.

-More-

*Pass or Fail?*

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The voluntary awards system is being reviewed and the department is working in adjusting it to meet the needs of the public and the industry moving forward. A new voluntary system is expected to be implemented in the near future. It is anticipated that several options will be presented to the public on our Web site for feedback to determine the final format/criteria for the new awards system.

“We invite county residents to continue to visit our website to learn when they will have a chance to vote for the model that they consider will work best. The public’s input would be highly appreciated and critical for establishing a new voluntary Food Inspection Award System”, said Kolman.

For more information, contact Maricopa County Environmental Services at (602) 506-6616, or visit <http://www.maricopa.gov/envsvc/>.

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